

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

    providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface;

    providing an elongated molded strip formed as an integral one-piece member and having an exposed outer surface defining a non-extrudable shape; the shape defined by the outer surface including a first three-dimensional pattern and a second three-dimensional pattern which is distinct from the first three-dimensional pattern; wherein a portion of the first pattern extends transversely to and is superimposed over a portion of the second pattern;

    fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated strip is generally convex.

21. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises at least one ridge.

22. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a counter assembly of claim 18 wherein the outer surface comprises at least one recess.

23. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a continuous ridge or recess.

24. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a plurality of discrete ridges or recesses.

25. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 24 wherein the outer surface of the elongated molded face strip comprises at least one ridge.

26. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip is comprised of a polymeric material.

27. (Original) The countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded face strip has an inner surface and said face strip is attached to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck at said inner surface.

28. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip is connected to the elongated vertical surface of the horizontal deck by a tongue and groove joint.

29 (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck.

30. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 29 wherein the protective covering is a laminate.

31. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 18 wherein the lower surface of the horizontal deck is vertically superimposed on an elongated build up member having an elongated vertical edge surface which is vertically aligned with the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck, and the horizontal molded face is superimposed over both the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and the elongated vertical edge surface of the elongated build up member.

32. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 31 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck.

33. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 32 wherein the protective covering is a laminate.

34. (Original) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 33 wherein the planar protective covering has an elongated front vertical edge surface which is vertically aligned with the elongated front vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and the build up member.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the elongated molded strip has a longitudinal length in the elongated direction of the strip and wherein on the exposed outer surface there is a repeated pattern along the longitudinal length.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the at least one ridge is transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the at least one recess is transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the elongated molded strip has a rear surface fixed to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and an upper edge projecting above the upper surface of the horizontal deck adjacent thereto; wherein the planar protective coating overhangs the horizontal deck elongated vertical edge surface to form an overhang disposed above the upper edge of the elongated molded strip; and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

- cutting the overhang to form a vertical edge of the planar protective coating which is aligned with the vertical edge of the horizontal deck; and

- positioning the protective coating vertical edge behind the elongated molded strip adjacent the rear surface thereof.

40. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

- providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface;

- providing an elongated molded strip formed as an integral one-piece member and having an exposed outer surface defining at least one of a ridge and a recess transverse to the elongated direction of the strip whereby the outer surface defines at least first and second three-dimensional patterns which are distinct from one another and wherein a portion of the first pattern extends transversely to and is superimposed over the second pattern;

- fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the outer surface defines a pattern which repeats at least once in the elongated direction of the strip.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck; wherein the elongated molded strip has a rear surface fixed to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and an upper edge projecting above the upper surface of the horizontal deck adjacent thereto; wherein the planar protective coating overhangs the horizontal deck elongated vertical edge surface to form an overhang disposed above the upper edge of the elongated molded strip; and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

- cutting the overhang to form a vertical edge of the planar protective coating which is aligned with the vertical edge of the horizontal deck; and

- positioning the protective coating vertical edge behind the elongated molded strip adjacent the rear surface thereof.

45. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing a countertop assembly comprising the steps of:

- batch cast molding an elongated strip as an integral one-piece member;

- providing a horizontal deck having an upper and a lower surface and an elongated vertical edge surface; and

- fixing the elongated molded strip to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck whereby the molded strip has an exposed outer surface defining at least first and second three-dimensional patterns which are distinct from one another; a portion of the first pattern extending transversely to and being superimposed over a portion of the second pattern.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the exposed outer surface ~~defining~~ defines at least one of a ridge and a recess transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the elongated molded strip has a longitudinal length in the elongated direction of the strip and wherein the exposed outer surface defines a repeated pattern along the longitudinal length.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the outer surface includes at least one ridge transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the outer surface includes at least one recess transverse to the elongated direction of the strip.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein a planar protective covering is superimposed on the upper surface of the horizontal deck; wherein the elongated molded strip has a rear surface fixed to the elongated vertical edge surface of the horizontal deck and an upper edge projecting above the upper surface of the horizontal deck adjacent thereto; wherein the planar protective coating overhangs the horizontal deck elongated vertical edge surface to form an overhang disposed above the upper edge of the elongated molded strip; and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

cutting the overhang to form a vertical edge of the planar protective coating which is aligned with the vertical edge of the horizontal deck; and

positioning the protective coating vertical edge behind the elongated molded strip adjacent the rear surface thereof.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein another portion of the first pattern is not superimposed over the second pattern.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein another portion of the first pattern is not superimposed over the second pattern.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein another portion of the first pattern is not superimposed over the second pattern.

56-57 (Canceled)

58. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 57~~ claim 46 wherein the exposed outer surface has an upper edge and a lower edge; and wherein the at least one of a ridge and a recess extends transversely from the upper edge to the lower edge.

59-61 (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 56~~ claim 18 wherein the elongated strip is formed of a single-composition material.

63. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 56~~ claim 18 wherein the entire outer surface of the molded strip is exposed.

64. (New) The method of manufacturing a countertop assembly of claim 40 wherein the outer surface of the elongated molded strip comprises a plurality of discrete ridges or recesses.

65. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the entire outer surface of the molded strip is exposed.

66. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the exposed outer surface has an upper edge and a lower edge; and wherein the at least one of a ridge and a recess extends transversely from the upper edge to the lower edge.

67. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the elongated strip is formed of a single-composition material.

68. (New) The method of claim 45 wherein the entire outer surface of the molded strip is exposed.